

Acorns to Oaks



How to grow oak trees from acorns.



The native **post oak** trees are some of our most beautiful natural features. These trees can live to be very old, are drought resistant, and are well adapted to our local soil and moisture conditions. While very strong and resilient, these trees typically are not able to be transplanted and are not available in nurseries for re-planting. It is possible to grow these trees from acorns and replant them in our landscape. The Town of Flower Mound would like to encourage you to join in and help re-establish post oak trees in our urban landscape.

1) Selecting Acorns

Collect several acorns and “float” them in a container of water. Throw away the ones that float. These are hollow and will not germinate.

2) Stratification

Post oaks (white oaks) do not necessarily need to go through stratification; however, red oaks do. Stratification is an artificial process that simulates fall/winter and stimulates germination.

Place the acorns in a plastic bag or container with moist peat moss or a sand / sand and moss mixture. Place this in the refrigerator for 30 to 90 days. Check frequently to see if growth has begun.



3) Planting

Once germination occurs (the seed begins to sprout) the seeds may be planted. Young trees are attractive meals for foraging animals — so protection may be required. Seedlings may be planted in their permanent location or they may be kept in 1 gallon pots until they reach 2 to 3 feet in height and are large enough to plant in the desired location. When keeping in pots, use a good, well-drained potting soil.

Remember — these young trees need a lot of attention. Check their moisture level often.

Additional Resources are available at —

<http://pods.dasnr.okstate.edu/docushare/dsweb/Get/Document-2542/NREM-5031web.pdf>

Questions or Comments — Contact the Environmental Services Division — (972)874-6352